

ARTICLE SUMMARIES

School of the People: The Progressive Origins of Cal Poly | *Andrew Gorman*

The Progressive Era began in the United States in the 1890s and lasted through the 1920s. The ultimate goal of the movement was to re-establish the respectability and sovereignty of the individual, who had slowly been losing his/her identity to the mass production model of factories. Beginning as far back as the 1840s, education served as one of the primary means to re-assert these qualities. This paper argues that Cal Poly, though traditionally viewed as a conservative school, was not immune to these Progressive influences and was in fact established with Progressive goals. By utilizing early course catalogs, Polytechnic Journals, and various other newspaper articles and previous research on the Progressive Era in the United States, this paper strives to show the connections between Progressive ideology and Cal Poly's educational goals.

Worthy of Veneration or Skepticism?: How Europeans Regarded Relics During Medieval and Renaissance Europe | *Kevin McLaren*

"How Europeans Regarded Relic Veneration" is intended to allow readers to better understand the role of relic veneration during the Renaissance and Reformation. The paper is designed to inform the reader about relics, their ancient and medieval justifications, how peasants viewed them, and the evolution of attitude changes toward relics. Prior to the Renaissance, many Europeans strongly believed in the restorative powers of relics. Over time, relic veneration became a source of conflict. During the Renaissance and Reformation, their role and purpose were controversial and questioned.

Twentieth Century Mermaids: American Women on Display | *Soquel Filice*

The bathing suit is a fashion piece that, in its complex and paradoxical nature, both liberated and inhibited the blossoming identities of early

20th century American women. Annette Kellerman, the Australian woman who inspired women to don this new fashion trend in the United States, encouraged these same women to think about swimming as a sport that was not just for men. Instead, it was a way to be recognized as the ideal woman during this time: slender and graceful. She also encouraged American women to wear form-fitting swimsuits instead of bulky corsets and petticoats. As more women decided to enjoy maritime leisure activities such as yachting, swimming, bathing, and sailing, they were not only liberated by their change in clothing, but also stereotyped as “mermaids” thanks to Kellerman’s contributions. “Mermaids of the Twentieth Century: American Women on Display” explores the paradoxes, paradigms, and factors that defined American women when they started to become more independent and wanted to enjoy maritime leisure on their own for the very first time.

This Small World: The Legacy and Impact of New York City Hardcore Punk and Straight Edge in the 1980s | *Alan Parkes*

In New York City, at the start of the 1980s, “the kids” would make hardcore punk their own. While it faced the same problems that the subculture was challenged with in L.A. and almost any other city, violence and condemnation, in New York City, hardcore punk formed out of the ruins of the City, making it unique amongst all other scenes. Thus, for its members, its value was in its escape from larger society. The scene sought independence through a do-it-yourself ethic, rebellion at its core by choosing not to adhere to the social structures in society. This caused the music and its members to not only dissociate with cultural norms, but also to begin to question them and even the scene to which they were a part. Critical of the hardcore punk scene to which it was born into, by the mid-decade, straight edge hardcore members gave rise to a new emphasis on self-analysis and ethics. While the growth of straight edge and its expansion into militant forms would challenge and contradict its original intent, for early New York straight edge members, it often created a foundation for the rest of their lives. Thus, while mem-

bers moved on from the scene, the thoughts and ideals of it transcended through them, and the music continues on acknowledging New York City's contribution to a misunderstood and misrepresented subculture.

Echoes of a Dying State: Perestroika Propaganda in the Soviet Foreign Press | *Matthew Brown*

During the Gorbachev period of the late 1980s, the Soviet Union underwent a massive campaign for reform. Known as perestroika, this program aimed to revitalize and restructure Soviet society, politics, and economics while ushering in a new era of prosperity. The way in which the Soviet foreign press presented these reforms to the international community reveals the nature of Soviet society at the time, and ultimately illustrates the gradual decline and destruction of the Soviet Union. Utilizing publications produced for Western consumption, this piece analyzes the extent to which Soviet society shaped reform propaganda, and uses the propaganda itself to track the undoing of Soviet state power as the reforms progressed.